



Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky

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**PART-TIME U.S. POSTAL EMPLOYEE SENTENCED FOR
AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT, BANK FRAUD,
THEFT OF U.S. MAIL, AND PASSING COUNTERFEIT CHECKS**

LOUISVILLE, KY - **Michelle Wales**, age 24, 7400 Cranfill Way, Apt. 2, Louisville, Kentucky, in Jefferson County, was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment in United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky, for theft of U.S. mail in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 513(a), passing counterfeit checks in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 513(a), bank fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1344, and aggravated identity theft in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1028A. Wales had previously pleaded guilty to these charges.

The Indictment to which she pleaded guilty charged that in August 2005 Wales, while an employee of the United States Postal Service, stole items of mail, including numerous checks totaling over \$7,000 and multiple debit/credit cards. In addition, in June 2005 Wales, a part-time mail carrier, passed or possessed numerous counterfeit checks totaling \$9,000. The Indictment further charged that in June 2005 Wales knowingly executed a scheme to defraud SunTrust Bank by using SunTrust Bank account identification numbers to pay her personal bills online, including bills from Louisville Gas & Electric, University of Louisville, and Capital One.

The remaining counts of the Indictment charged that from March to May of 2006 Wales stole the personal identification information of a number of individuals to commit mail fraud. The Indictment Charged that on four occasions Wales knowingly used the identification information of four different individuals to apply for online credits cards that were ultimately

mailed to her home address. Wales used the date of birth and social security number of these individuals to obtain credit cards that she then used for her own benefit.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Bryan Calhoun, and it was investigated by the Louisville Metropolitan Police Department, the University of Louisville Police Department, and the United States Postal Inspection Service.

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